

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture Minutes
April 10, 2006
Wyoming Department of Agriculture Conference Room

Members Present:

Helen Jones, President
Spencer Ellis, Vice President
Lee Otto
Jim Mickelson
Gene Hardy
David Graham
Jack Corson
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture
Paige Smith, Governor Freudenthal's Office

Youth Advisory Committee:

David Largent
Emily Horton
Patrick Zimmerer
Dalin Winters

WDA Staff Present:

Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jim Schwartz, Deputy Director

Approval of Minutes

Jim Mickelson made a motion to approve the minutes from March 15, February 22, and April 5, 2006. Seconded by Gene Hardy. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Election of President

Jim Mickelson nominated Spencer Ellis by acclamation. Seconded by Gene Hardy. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Wyoming Ag in the Classroom

Sarka White gave the members an overview of the program and dates of some upcoming classes. She announced the receipt of an endowment of \$750,000 recently received from Encanta and the gifting process.

University Update

President, Dr. Buchanan visited with the members about the exciting things happening with the University and especially the College of Agriculture. He encouraged the Board to let his office know if there are issues out there he should be aware of and wanted to strengthen communications between the two entities.

He talked about some of the outcomes of the legislative session, especially the full funding of the seed lab expansion. He's excited about the lab being able to handle the increased testing. Leslie Woods was hired to work in the lab. She husband, Dale, is also going to be in the plant science division at the College of Ag. They were also given some positions in Cooperative Extension. He also talked about the benefits of the West Interstate Comm. for Higher Ed (WICHE) increased funding which allows Wyoming students the opportunity to attend out-of-state colleges at the in-state tuition cost for programs the University doesn't currently offer. In the past, the out-of-state tuition

had been going up, but the funding wasn't increasing and the new legislation now covers that difference. He was very pleased with the legislative results this year.

He talked briefly about the energy school, the Hathaway Scholarship, and the endowment program which allows a family to now establish an endowment in honor of a deceased family member. The state will match dollar for dollar when the fund reaches \$50,000. He feels all of these will add some long-term stability. He's also excited about the number of students enrolled in the College of Ag. There are 875 students in the college and those numbers are steadily increasing.

He talked about the Bio-security level 3 lab and the task force created to study the possibilities of there being one in Laramie. The need is there and agreed it will probably require a cooperative effort between the University, state and federal agencies.

Water Development

Jim Magagna wanted to comment on water development. He said the ag groups asked the legislature not to continue the small water development projects. The reasoning was to take a step back and take a good look at the program. They all felt they had tried to adapt the process for large scale projects to this small water development program and the requirements were pretty restrictive. Jack Corson was disappointed there weren't some new plans presented instead of killing the program.

Removal of the Mountain Pine Beetle

A Joint Resolution had been presented to the Board of Agriculture to sign after the Weed and Pest Council approved it at their fall, 2005 meeting, to remove the Mountain Pine Beetle from the Designated Weed and Pest List. The Board of Agriculture held a public hearing at their meeting February 23, 2006. At that time they moved to continue researching the issue and make their decision at the April meeting. All members visited with constituents in their areas to become better informed what their needs were. **Lee Otto made a motion to not remove the Mountain Pine Beetle from the Designated Weed and Pest List as requested via the Joint Resolution signed by the President of the Council. Seconded by Gene Hardy. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

Conservation District Appointment

Jim Mickelson made a motion to appoint Lee Splett to fill the vacant, at-large position recently held by Randy Shipman and to appoint Bob Slagowski to fill the vacant rural position on the Sweetwater County Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Jack Corson seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Living Legacy

Helen Jones made a motion to purchase a tree to be planted at State Fair Park and the cost to be divided by all members. Jack Corson amended the motion to not include the Youth Committee in the cost, but still include them in the purchase, making it \$50 for each of the seven members. Jack Corson seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Water Development

Mike Besson came to visit with the members about the commission and recent developments with the legislation Jim Magagna had spoken about earlier. After discussion, the members felt water development is a priority and they would like to visit with the Governor after the elections.

Declared Weed and Pest List

This is now a permanent list. Only changes would be made if adding or deleting from the list. **Helen Jones made a motion to adopt the declared list as presented. Jim Mickelson seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.**

John Etchepare would like to see the Weed and Pest Council become advisors to the BLM and

private landowners to make sure the contractors are complying with the contracts they have with those landowners.

John reviewed the outcomes from the legislative session. He gave some thoughts on the reasons he thinks the BOA bill was defeated. He encouraged the members to attend the Joint Ag Committee meetings April 19 and 20 in Torrington. Jim Schwartz encouraged each member to get to know their legislators to start building those relationships.

Election of Vice President

Lee Otto nominated Jack Corson. David Graham seconded. All voted in favor.

Issues

It was decided to have Patrick, Dalin and Emily attend the Joint Ag Committee meeting and have them speak about the importance of adding the youth member to the Board.

The Board would like to go back to the Joint Ag with the same bill as last year.

John would like to have an FFA and 4-H representative on the State Fair Advisory Committee. Emily feels it would diminish their experience at State Fair. Jack Corson feels the same way as Emily and said it's too much responsibility for a person that young to be on the Advisory Committee. They both felt if anything, it should be someone between 18 and 30. **Jack Corson moved to table the issue for a year to give them time to research the issue. Jim Mickelson seconded. All voted in favor.**

Jack Corson moved to change the conference call from April 19 to April 26. Helen Jones seconded. All voted in favor.

Water Quality Grant

Jim Mickelson made a motion to grant the Lake DeSmet proposal as requested. Helen seconded. All voted in favor.

Youth Forum

Emily asked the board to help in contacting people to speak on the panel and reminded them to please plan on being in Douglas May 15 for the forum.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Spencer Ellis, President

Date

Attachment:

Attendance sheet

Lake DeSmet request

Declared Weed and Pest List

Joint Resolution

Sweetwater Conservation Appointment